Report of IISS, London on Military balance between India and Pakistan

1516 SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the latest report on military balance published in London by the International Institute for Strategic Studies according to which the Pakistani Army has grown fast in the last two years while the size of the Indian Army has been trimmed down;

(b) whether according to this Report Pakistan is ahead in missile development and it has added 500 Anza missiles and an unspecified number of Redeyo missiles; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to safeguard India's integrity and sovereignty from any Pakistani venture to attack it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the increase in the size of the Pakistani Army and acquisition of sophisticated weapons, including missiles, far beyond its legitimate defence requirements.

(c) Our plans for full defence preparedness have taken into account all developments having a bearing on our security.

Set back to industrial production due to Gulf crisis

1517. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appraisal has been made at any stage on the set back to industrial production and growth rate in various sectors as a result of the oil crunch created by the Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, the anticipated fall in the industrial production due to Gulf crisis in various crucial sectors month-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA). (a) and (b) No specific appraisal has been made to assess the impact of the oil crunch created by the Gulf crisis However, as per an analysis made by the D.G.T.D., there was a deceleration in the industrial growth rate in the second quarter of the year due to shortage of imported raw materials, lack of orders, labour problems and other infrastructural inputs.

(c) The Department of Petroleum & Natural Gas had announced a series of measures in June, 1990 to contain the demand for petroleum products. Several relaxations have been announced subsequently based on feedback received from different sectors of the economy, These include exemption of certain industries like continuous process industries, sick units, expansion cases, export units, etc. from restriction in supplies of petroleum products The restriction on the availability of LPG to industrial users has also been lifted The effort of the Government has been to minimise the adverse impact of the oil crisis on industrial production.

Non-operation of Kalpakam Reactor

1518. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA· Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's ambitious nuclear power programme has come to a grinding halt with the 40 MW fast breeder reactor located at Kalpakam becoming permanently unoperational;

(b) if so, its impact on the plan of setting up a 500 MW fast breeder prototype of the Kalpakam-type reactor; and

(c) the steps being taken to retrieve the situation and save nuclear power plans from collapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (c) It is totally incorrect to say that Fast Breeder Test Reactor located at Kalpakam has become unoperational and consequently the country's Nuclear Power Programme has

come to a grinding halt. Some difficulties experienced during commissioning of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor have been overcome and the reactor is getting ready for generation of power from the middle of 1991 The reactor is operating at low power for specific experiments. This is only a research reactor, the design of the prototype test reactor is progressing satisfactorily.

Recommendations of Dhanao Committee on NCCBM

1519. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dhanao Committee appointed by the Ministry of Industry, Government of India to review working of National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) has made some recommendations;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and action taken on the basis of that recommendations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have ignored the recommendations made in favour of aggrieved staff; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee has inter-alia observed that National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) has created an adequate base for research work relating to the cement industry. The Committee has also observed that while the overall personnel policy and its implementation in National Council for Cement and Building Materials is sound, there are some aberrations and points of dissatisfaction amongst staff and these may be rectified.

The Dhanoa Committee was appointed by the Government pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Governors of NCB and the report has been remitted to the Board of Governors

Budget for producing PGF programmes at Doordarshan, Goa

1520. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) what is the amount of budgetary provision at the disposal of Doordarshan Station of Goa to produce P G F. programmes; and

(b) whether it is a fact that cheap and substandard programmes are telecast and most of the artists who perform are not paid any stipend but work voluntarily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) A sum of Rs. 12.50 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of Programme Generation Facility Centre, Panaji (Goa) for the financial year 1990-91

(b) No, Sir.

Child marriages in the country

1521. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) what is the number of child marriages performed in the country in 1989 as compared to the number of child marriages in 1988 and what is the number of such marriages performed since the beginning of 1990;

(b) whether the law prohibiting child marriages has failed to check such marriages;

(c) what other measures have been taken by Government to tackle the socio, economic and psychological factors fostering the practice of child marriages by involving social organisations, and

(d) whether Government propose to review the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 to plug the loopholes in its implementation and to make it more stringent to curb child marriages in the country?